Courses on nuclear technology

2190. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that after the successful Nuclear Agreement with USA and France, some universities/IITs are going to include nuclear technology in their M-Tech courses;

(b) whether there is any provision for providing scholarship, as an incentive, to the students opting for these courses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Universities/IITs have academic freedom to design and develop the courses as are recommended by their appropriate academic and administrative bodies. They do not require prior permission of the Government for introduction of new courses.

Poor quality of food in Mid-day Meal Scheme

2191. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor quality food is served under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme;

(b) the measures taken to ensure serving of quality food having prescribed nutritional value to children; and

(c) the number of children that fell ill after eating Mid-day Meals during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The MDM Guidelines, 2006 envisages providing hot cooked meal having 450 calories and 12 grams of protein for primary (classes I-V) and 700 calories and 20 grams of protein for upper primary (classes VI-VIII) children studying in Government (including local body), Government-aided schools and centers run under Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS)/Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE). Though the overall responsibility to ensure all logistic and administrative arrangements for regular serving of wholesome, cooked mid day meal in every eligible school EGS/AIE centres lies with the State Government/UT Administration, the Central Government has been continuously urging the State Governments to:—

— ensure that food is cooked in a hygienic environment

— food items are stored in dry and safe places

— drinking water is adequately made available

— cooks are properly trained in adopting hygienic habits.

Besides, States have also been urged to involve the parents and community members to supervise the cooking and serving of mid-day meal. As and when, any complaint is brought to